

Message Text

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ORIGIN DLOS-09

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DRAFTED BY S/AR:AGJAMES/MW
APPROVED BY S/AR:ELRICHARDSON
S/AR:GHALDRICH
NEA/INS - MR. MALLOT (SUBS)
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O 012324Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 287218

FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS - STATUS OF PRESIDENT AMERASINGHE

REFS: (A) COLOMBO 4644; (B) STATE 286396

1. AMBASSADOR ZULETA CALLED ME TODAY TO SAY THAT AMERASINGHE HAD SEIZED THE BULL BY THE HORNS AND HAD TELEPHONED COLOMBO TO GET OFFICIAL WORD OF HIS STATUS. THE MFA PERMANENT SECRETARY TO WHOM AMERASINGHE SPOKE INFORMED HIM "YOU ARE GOING TO BE CONTINUED." PAPERS TO THIS EFFECT HAD BEEN
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PREPARED AND WERE ON THEIR WAY TO THE PRIME MINISTER. ZULETA HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT HOW OR WHY THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT HAD REVERSED ITSELF. HIS ONLY CONJECTURE WAS THE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE OFFICES OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE FOREIGN MINISTER WERE NOT AS GOOD AS THEY SHOULD BE. ZULETA DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT AMERASINGHE SEEMS REASONABLY WELL SATISFIED THAT THE MATTER IS NOW SETTLED.

2. WHILE ZULETA AND I ARE MUCH RELIEVED AT THE GOOD NEWS, WE AGREED THAT THE MEASURES NOTED IN STATE 286396 SHOULD GO AHEAD AS REINSURANCE.

3. FOR AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS: WOULD YOU PLEASE TAKE SUCH FOLLOW-UP ACTION AS YOU DEEM APPROPRIATE TO CONFIRM OUR

INFORMATION AND ADVISE ME AS SOON AS JAYAWARDENE HAS ACTED.

4. FOR AMBASSADOR WEST: AMBASSADOR WRIGGINS INFORMS ME THAT SAUDI ARABIA HAS NO PERMANENT MISSION IN COLOMBO AND THAT THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR TO INDIA WHOSE MISSION ALSO INCLUDES SRI LANKA LEFT COLOMBO NOVEMBER 30 AFTER A REGULAR VISIT. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES I LEAVE IT TO YOU TO DECIDE WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY UTILITY IN MAKING THE DEMARCHE TO THE SAUDIS REQUESTED IN REFTEL A.

5. FOR AMBASSADOR GOHEEN: PLEASE CONTINUE TO TAKE ACTION ON REFTEL A.

6. FOR AMBASSADOR HUMMEL: I AM REPEATING TO YOU STATE 286396 WHICH WILL GIVE YOU THE GENERAL PICTURE REGARDING AMERASINGHE'S POSITION AND THE ACTIONS WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO STIMULATE TO HEAD OFF A FINAL ADVERSE DECISION BY THE SRI
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LANKA PRIME MINISTER. I CALLED PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON YAQUB-KHAN EARLIER TODAY BEFORE ZULETA HAD REACHED ME. AFTER FILLING HIM IN ON AMERASINGHE'S SITUATION AND NOTING THE IMPORTANCE OF A PAKISTANI APPROACH TO THE SRI LANKA GOVERNMENT, I ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT HE, OR I THROUGH YOU, SHOULD RAISE THE ISSUE WITH ISLAMABAD. HE SAID IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO DO SO SINCE HE COULD BROACH THE MATTER MORE INFORMALLY THAN WE. HE SHARED MY CONCERN ABOUT AMERASINGHE'S POSITION AND UNDERTOOK TO COMMUNICATE WITH HIS GOVERNMENT PROMPTLY. AT THIS POINT THERE IS NO ACTION YOU NEED TAKE BUT I WANTED YOU TO BE FULLY IN THE PICTURE.

7. FOR EMBASSY LONDON AND US MISSION GENEVA: STATE 286396 IS BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR INFORMATION ONLY.

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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TAGS: PLOS, CE, (AMERASINGHE, HAMILTON SHIRLEY)
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